

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USDEL MTN GENEVA
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MX, IN, GT, ES, NU, HO, AF, PN, TD, CH, CO, CS

SUBJECT: ESCAPE CLAUSE PROCEEDING ON SHRIMP -- PRESIDENT
ORDERS EXPEDITED ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 117071

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS,
DATED JULY 7, ANNOUNCING THE DISPOSITION OF THE UNITED
STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION REPORT TO THE
PRESIDENT REGARDING THE EFFECT OF IMPORTS OF SHRIMP: BEGIN
TEXT:

PRESIDENT FORD HAS DIRECTED EXPEDITED TRADE ADJUSTMENT
ASSISTANCE FOR THE U.S. SHRIMP FISHING INDUSTRY AND ITS
EMPLOYEES, AMBASSADOR FREDERICK B. DENT, THE PRESIDENT'S
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ANNOUNCED
TODAY.

THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION WAS DETERMINED BY A MAY 11, 1976
U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FINDING THAT IMPORTS
OF SHRIMP ARE ENTERING THE U.S. IN SUCH INCREASED QUANTITIES
AS TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL CAUSE OF SERIOUS INJURY TO THE
DOMESTIC INDUSTRY CATCHING AND LANDING SHRIMP. THE COM-
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MISSION SELECTED ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE AS THE
APPROPRIATE REMEDY. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, AS
REQUIRED UNDER THE TRADE ACT OF 1974, CALLS FOR EXPEDITIOUS
CONSIDERATION BY THE SECRETARIES OF LABOR AND COMMERCE
OF PETITIONS FILED FOR ASSISTANCE BY THE INDUSTRY, ITS
WORKERS, OR IMPACTED COMMUNITIES.

THE COMMISSION REPORTED THAT BOTH U.S. LANDINGS OF SHRIMP AND IMPORTS HAVE RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST DECADE. CONSUMPTION REACHED AN ALL-TIME HIGH OF 440 MILLION POUNDS IN 1974. HOWEVER, RECORD IMPORTS AT SHARPLY DECLINING PRICES, COMBINED WITH HIGHER DOMESTIC OPERATING COSTS, CAUSED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF U.S. SHRIMP FISHERMEN TO SUFFER FINANCIAL LOSSES. IN 1974, THE NUMBER OF TRIPS MADE BY SHRIMP VESSELS IN THE LARGEST FISHING AREA DECLINED AND SIGNIFICANT IDLING OF EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL CONTINUED INTO 1975. WHILE EX-VESSEL PRICES HAVE RECOVERED, THE COMMISSION FOUND THAT THE DOMESTIC FISHING INDUSTRY IS STILL SUFFERING FROM THE 1974 DAMAGE TO ITS CAPITAL STRUCTURE, WHICH PREVENTED THE MODERNIZATION NECESSARY TO COMPETE MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH IMPORTS. IN THE CASE OF THE SHRIMP PROCESSORS, THE COMMISSION FOUND THAT THE INDUSTRY WAS NOT BEING INJURED BY IMPORTS.

IMPORTS OF SHRIMP HAVE AVERAGED 226 MILLION POUNDS OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS AND IN 1975 WERE VALUED AT \$346 MILLION. MEXICO AND INDIA ARE THE LEADING EXPORTERS TO THE U.S. BUT A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES - INCLUDING SEVERAL IN LATIN AMERICA - ARE ALSO SIGNIFICANT SUPPLIERS.

A MAJOR PART OF THE DOMESTIC CATCH COMES FROM THE SOUTH ATLANTIC-GULF REGION - NORTH CAROLINA TO TEXAS - BUT SHRIMP FISHING OPERATIONS ARE ALSO SIGNIFICANT ON THE PACIFIC COAST, INCLUDING ALASKA. THE CATCH IN NEW ENGLAND IS RELATIVELY SMALL. END TEXT.

2. US MISSION OECD PARIS INFORM OECD SECRETARIAT. US MISSION GENEVA NOTIFY THE GATT SECRETARIAT REQUESTING THAT THE CITED TEXT BE CIRCULATED FOR THE INFORMATION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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